

Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation President's Annual Report 2019

Nov. 2018 to Oct. 2019

Our Mission: "to preserve, restore, protect, and maintain the historic structure in Waynesville, Missouri known as the 'Old Stagecoach Stop' in order to permit its educational value to be appreciated by future generations; to engage in educational and charitable activities related to the 'Old Stagecoach Stop'."

We have enjoyed another exciting and eventful year at the Old Stagecoach Stop in downtown Waynesville, MO! Over 1,500 people have enjoyed the unique history we are privileged to share through tours and festivals. In our Visitors Register, we noted comments like: "Excellent!" "Cool!" "Great!" "Awesome!" "Fabulous!" "Enjoyable!" "Informative!" "Impressive!" "Cozy!" "Personable!" and "Incredible!" which assures us that our historic museum continues to delight and amaze people from all over our community, country, and world. We hosted visitors from 63 of Missouri's 114 counties, 49 of America's 50 states, and 49 countries, of which Germany contributed about a fifth of foreign visitors. Additional tours this year were special groups including a regional Model-T group; a group from the Czech Republic, Italy, and Portugal; the Waynesville-St. Robert Chamber of Commerce Leadership Pulaski County Class; a senior group from Oklahoma; the Cave State Cruisers; the 44th Engineer retirees; families of graduating FLW trainees; and other special requests. We also participated in community events such as Freedom Fest in June, Old Settlers Day in July, Oktoberfest in October, and Christmas on the Square in December.

Old Settlers Day, which was again organized by the Pulaski County Museum, brought a special visit from "General Ulysses S. Grant" and Civil War re-enactors who provided living history demonstrations in the city park where they staged several battles throughout the day. These activities, in addition to the regular vendors and booths, brought many visitors to the Old Stagecoach Stop.

Special thanks to David Chuber, retired historian at Fort Leonard Wood, and wife, Teresa, who provided insight into Civil War medical knowledge and practices which enhances the interpretation of our Civil War hospital site. And special thanks to The River Church for providing a special shuttle van to and from the city park activities which increased our visitation numbers.



More than 600 people passed through our doors during Christmas on the Square in 2018. In the past five years, this popular event has provided the most visitors to the Old Stagecoach Stop. A 1915 kitchen full of Christmas cookies, breads, sandwiches, hot coffee, hot chocolate, and hot apple cider provided by Old Stagecoach Stop Board members, coupled with warm fireplaces and dulcimer music by Board member, Pam Barnabee, and her friends helped to make it a memorable evening. Christmas on the Square on December 5, 2019, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm will again be a highlight for the many people who pass through to warm up and get a few snacks.

In addition to special events, the Old Stagecoach Stop Museum is traditionally open every Saturday from April through September to share our amazing history.

The Old Stagecoach Stop got an amazing facelift this summer! The entire front of the building, upstairs and down, was scraped and painted by Board member, Mark Zurbrick. He received some much appreciated help from young volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints for painting the banisters on the balcony and the porch columns, a very tedious job. The entire project required \$720 of donated materials including 4 dozen tubes of caulk and 10 gallons of paint, along with 170 hours of volunteer labor.

A new, eye-catching, coroplast and aluminum Open/Direction sign that pointed the way to the OSS was fashioned for the corner of Historic Route 66 and Lynn Street. Volunteers had been lugging rather heavy sandwich board signs to that corner for more than 25 years. MoDOT gave the OSS permission to attach the new, lightweight sign to one of their posts.

Also added to the front of the building was a new Open/Closed information sign with custom printing provided free of charge by Lone Oak Printing.

With the realization that the McNeese building, the World War II brick building behind the OSS, needed some serious attention, the process of getting bids and making improvements began. A new roof was put on by Ludlow Roofing LLC, including new sheathing, underlayment, flashing, and architectural composite shingles with a 30-year guarantee at a cost of \$3,570 in materials and labor. The front of the building also received a fresh coat of paint.



(Note: Thank you to Terry Primas for providing some of the details for this report, taken from his upcoming book on the history of the Old Stagecoach Stop.)

The interior renovation in the east room of the McNeese building involved installing a new ceiling, a ceiling fan, window blinds, and wraparound fluorescent light fixtures which more evenly illuminate the room. Additional wiring for light switches was added and the walls were re-painted. A bookcase was built to hold OSS records and a table was added so that Board meetings can be held in the room. Thanks to Board members Terry Primas and Mark Zurbrick for all their hard work in completing this project which required 60 hours of volunteer labor and \$720 in donated materials.

Other improvements for the OSS included a sealer which was applied to the masonry on both chimneys, and new flashing which was installed between the first row of shake shingles and the gutter on the front of the building, at a cost of \$880.00.



In the early years of this century, when we were co-sponsoring Pawpaw Daze with the Planters of Pulaski County, we planted four pawpaw trees in the back yard of the OSS. The yard is not the usual habitat for such trees but we gave it a try. We planted the tree in the picture in 2005. In 2017, it finally bore a handful of fruit with a few more the next year. In 2019, the tree brought forth 52 pawpaws!

A huge thanks to all of those businesses who supported The Old Stagecoach Stop with ads in the *Old Settlers Gazette*, our annual historical edition of past and present news of Pulaski County. Spring brought out the hardy ad sales team (aka OSS Board members) to contact businesses for ads in the Gazette. After months of intensive writing and editing by Terry and Jan Primas, the free *Gazettes* were delivered to advertisers and locations around the county, and also mailed to patrons throughout the U.S. The entire profit from this project goes to the continued restoration and maintenance of our historic building. A special THANK YOU to all of the other volunteers who help this and all other Stagecoach Stop activities preserve and share the history for this community.

Our website, oldstagecoachstop.org continues our mission of preserving the history of the Old Stagecoach Stop and the surrounding area. It includes historic pictures, archives of all the *Old Settlers Gazettes*, and is a rich source for research of our county. Also, visit our page at [facebook.com/Old Stagecoach Stop](https://facebook.com/OldStagecoachStop).

As we look back on 2019, we reflect on the great privilege of continuing the goals established by the founders of this historic site. We are proud to be situated along Route 66 and allowed to share history with the many travelers who are touring the "Mother Road" from Chicago to Santa Monica. We are thankful that so many people from our area, from around the country, and from around the world have visited and enjoyed our museum, faithfully preserved for future generations.